

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission, on) Application No. NG-0045/
its own motion, seeking to investi-) PI-127
gate policies of jurisdictional)
utilities charging monthly fees for) ORDER OPENING DOCKET AND
disconnected months of natural gas) SEEKING COMMENT
service when reconnected within a)
twelve-month period.)
) Entered: April 17, 2007

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission, on its own motion, opens this docket to investigate policies of jurisdictional utilities charging monthly fees for disconnected months of natural gas service when reconnected within a twelve-month period.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Effective June 1, 2005, several Aquila, Inc. (Aquila) tariff changes became effective, as permitted by the Commission, including a new charge, commonly referred to as a "seasonal disconnection charge," wherein a customer who disconnects and reconnects service at the same premises within a twelve-month period must pay customer charges for the months he or she was disconnected. Aquila began enforcing this tariff change in the spring of 2006, the first full summer for which the charge could apply. In the fall 2006, upon complaint of customers who asserted they were unaware of this charge, Aquila waived the applicable customer charges under its seasonal disconnect policy.

Kinder Morgan has a similar provision included in its tariff, labeled as a "continuing service charge," which was in effect prior to the Commission assuming jurisdiction over the company in 2003. By a bill insert recently mailed to customers in the spring of 2007, the company informed customers that it had upgraded capabilities, enabling it to better track the applicability of the charge.

In an effort to fully understand how the tariff policies operate in practice, the Commission seeks comments as follows and requires each jurisdictional utility to provide or confirm the following information:

1. Does your company charge a seasonal disconnection charge, continuing service charge, or similar charge, wherein a customer who disconnects and reconnects service at the same premises within a twelve (12) month period must pay customer charges for the months he or she was disconnected? Please provide any applicable written policies, customer literature, or tariff provisions relevant to your company's seasonal disconnection or similar charge.

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2. How many jurisdictional customers opted to disconnect and reconnect service at the same premises within a twelve-month period for the calendar year 2006?
3. Does a disconnection and/or reconnection fee apply in addition to any fees for uncollected customer charges?

Responses to items listed herein should be filed with the Commission **no later than 5:00 p.m., May 31, 2007**. Jurisdictional Utilities shall file one original and eight (8) copies and send an electronic copy to rose.price@psc.ne.gov.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Commission that the above docket is opened to investigate policies of jurisdictional utilities charging monthly fees for disconnected months of natural gas service when reconnected within a twelve-month period.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that responses to the items listed herein shall be filed by all jurisdictional utilities no later than **5:00 p.m., May 31, 2007** consistent with the terms of this order.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 17th day of April, 2007.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Gerald L. Cyp

Anne C. Boyle

Tim Schram

//s// Rod Johnson

//s// Frank E. Landis

Chairman

Rod Johnson

ATTEST:

And S. Pollok

Executive Director